

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05

OES-03 /083 W  
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R 211837Z MAY 75  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8912  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 687  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, EEC, XF  
SUBJECT: EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: A. DUBLIN 896  
B. EC BRUSSELS 3867

1. SUMMARY: EC OFFICIALS WHO TALKED TO ARAB LEAGUE  
SECRETARY GENERAL RIAD IN CAIRO ON MAY 15 CAME AWAY  
CONFIDENT THAT ARABS WOULD DECIDE TO STICK TO EURO/ARAB  
TIMETABLE WITH FIRST SET OF MEETING JUNE 10-15. EVEN IF  
SCHEDULE HOLDS UP, OR IF THERE IS MINOR SLIPPAGE, THERE ARE  
TRICKY UNRESOLVED PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS. EC SIDE WANTS TO HAVE THE  
"DENATIONALIZED EXPERTS" FORMULA CONTINUE INDEFINITELY WHEREAS  
THE ARABS WANT TO HAVE THE JUNE 10-15 SESSION INCLUDE A MEETING  
OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION WHICH COULD RISK RAISING THE QUESTION  
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OF PLO REPRESENTATION ANEW. ANOTHER WORKING LEVEL MEETING ON

PROCEDURE IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REPORTING ON THE TALKS HE AND IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLAGHER HELD IN CAIRO WITH RIAD, EC COMMISSION DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL MEYER TOLD US RIAD HAD LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE JUNE 10-15 MEETING OF THE EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE (REFTEL B) WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH NO SLIPPAGE. MEYER NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "POLITICAL" AND "TECHNICAL" EXPERTS OF THE LEAGUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING THE DIALOGUE ON MAY 20-21 AND PRESS REPORTS THUS FAR INDICATED THAT THERE WAS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE MEETING. HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THE TALKS WOULD BEGIN AS SCHEDULED. HE SAID RIAD WAS ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD AND WAS TAKING THE POSITION THAT UNLESS THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DECISION TO BEGIN TALKS ON THE 10TH OF JUNE WAS FORMALLY OVERTURNED AT ANOTHER MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE JUNE 10-15 MEETING SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED.

3. MEYER SAID THAT THE ARABS ON MAY 15 HAD GIVEN THE EC CONTINGENT QUITE A QUIZZING ON THE ISRAELI AGREEMENT BUT THAT HE, MEYER, HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WHAT THE ARABS REALLY WANTED WAS A THOROUGH STATEMENT OF THE EC ARGUMENTATION WHICH THE LEAGUE COULD USE AGAINST OPPOSITION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES. MEYER ALSO NOTED THAT THE MAGREB COUNTRIES WERE NOT ABOVE TRYING TO EXPLOIT THE DIFFICULTIES OVER THE ISRAELI AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE EC TO MAKE CONCESSIONS AND MOVE MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THEIR OWN AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY. IN A SEPARATE TALK, EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT THE THREE MAGREB AMBASSADORS HAD TOLD HIM THAT WHILE THEY WOULD SCREAM ABOUT THE ISRAELI AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE THEY WANTED IT UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS SHOULD IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH THE SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF THEIR OWN NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MEYER SAID THAT PROBLEMS OF TIMING NOTWITHSTANDING THERE WERE STILL SOME IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES THAT HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED. THE EC PREFERENCE WAS FOR THE JUNE 10-15 SESSION TO BEGIN WITH THE CREATION OF EXPERTS GROUPS WHICH WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECOME THE NORMAL EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE BODY THUS PROLONGING INDEFINITELY THE "DENATIONALIZED EXPERTS" FORMULA IN ORDER TO AVOID THE ISSUE OF PLO REPRESENTATION. THE ARAB LEAGUE ON THE OTHER HAND PROPOSED THAT THE JUNE 10-15 MEETINGS OPEN WITH A PLENARY OR GENERAL COMMISSION SESSION LASTING FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE EC FEARED THIS WOULD PERMIT THE REOPENING OF THE WHOLE PLO QUESTION. MEYER SAID AN AD REFERENDUM COMPROMISE PROPOSAL (AS DESCRIBED IN REF A, PARA 3)

HAD BEEN AGREED TO WHICH WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE EC SIDE AT THE MEETING OF THE EC COORDINATING GROUP IN DUBLIN ON MAY 23. IN ANY EVENT, THIS QUESTION AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE JUNE 10-15 MEETING WOULD THEN BE DISCUSSED BY MEYER AND GALLAGHER AT A MEETING WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN EITHER DUBLIN OR CAIRO ON JUNE 2. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE DIALOGUE IN JUNE (MEYER DOUBTED THAT MUCH WOULD TAKE PLACE OVER THE SUMMER), THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN SEPTEMBER WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION AND MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON CARRYING THE DIALOGUE FORWARD.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION MEYER SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE ARABS FROM TURNING THE DIALOGUE INTO A POLITICAL SHOW. HE SAID THAT IF THE PROCEDURAL ECOMPROMISE HELD, THE ONE-DAY PLENARY SESSION SPEECHES WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE EC COMMISSION, PLUS THE PRESIDENCIES OF BOTH BODIES. MEYER IS CONFIDENT THAT NEITHER THE ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT NOR THE JORDANIANS WHO CURRENTLY HOLD THE PRESIDENCY, WILL CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. THE WORKING GROUPS HE BELIEVED, WITH THEIR "EXPERTS", SIMPLY WOULD NOT PROVIDE A SUITABLE PLATFORM FOR TROUBLESOME TALK.

6. MEYER CONFIRMED THE GIST OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE WORKING PARTIES AS REPORTED IN PARA 4 REFTTEL A. HE SAID HE THOUGHT PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY HAD BEEN THROWN IN BY THE ARABS RATHER CASUALLY BECAUSE IT "SOUNDED GOOD." HE CONFIRMED THAT THE ARABS HAD NOT MADE ANY EFFORT TO INCLUDE THE BROAD TOPIC OF ENERGY AS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS. GREENWLAD

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